GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:785
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2009
ASTHMA RISK IN BABIES
Barman Shri Hiten

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research has been conducted to assess the side effects of certain drugs which are likely to cause asthma risk in babies;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of these drugs;

(c) whether the Government proposes to ban these drugs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (e) For certain anti-asthmatic Drug inhalers (combination of Salmeterol/formeterol with fluticasone, budesonide) researchers have raised concerns that long action beta-2 agonist can worsen asthma by increasing symptoms severity. These drugs may also increase in risk for asthma. However, Corticosteroids works overtime to reduce inflammation and prevent permanent injury in the lungs. Many studies have shown that the use of inhaled corticosteroids in patients with moderate to severe asthma significantly reduces the rate of re-hospitalization and deaths from asthma. The FDA USA is continuing to evaluate the safety of salmeterol for children and its benefits outweigh its risk.